

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

----- 107170

R 260945Z MAC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0305

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA POUCH

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KOHA 0360

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR QA SA

SUBJ: QATARI REACTION TO KING FAISAL'S DEATH

1. QATARIS SHARING PROFOUND SHOCK AND SORROW, TEMPERED SOMEWHAT BY THEIR WAHABI STOICISM, OVER DEATH OF KING FAISAL. AMIR DEPARTED MORNING MARCH 26 FOR RIYADH TO ATTEND FUNERAL CEREMONIES. FORTY-DAY MOURNING PERIOD HAS BEEN DECREED AND THE GOVT OFFICES, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES HAVE CLOSED DOWN FOR THREE DAYS.

2. QATAR PERHAPS MORE DEEPLY AFFECTED BY FAISAL'S DEATH BECAUSE OF COUNTRY'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH KINGDOM AND ROYAL FAMILY. AMIR, RULING FAMILY, AND MANY OTHERS, PROUDLY REGARD QATAR AS EXTENSION OF KINGDOM, VIEWED FAISAL AS THEIR PARAMOUNT SHEIKH, AND BELIEVE THEIR DESTINY INTIMATELY ENTWINED WITH THAT OF SAG AND SAUDS. NOT ONLY DOES SAUDI ARABIA COMPLETELY EMBRACE QATAR GEOGRAPHICALLY, BUT ALSO SAUDIS LOOKED TO FOR POLITICAL, SPIRITUAL, ECONOMIC GUIDANCE AND SECURITY SUPPORT. KING FAISAL, AS TOWERING AND REVERED FATHER FIGURE, WAS KEY ELEMENT IN THIS RELATIONSHIP, AND HIS PASSING BOUND TO DIMINISH,
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IF EVER SO SLIGHTLY, DOMINATING SAUDI INFLUENCE HERE.

3. A SOBERING ASPECT FOR AMIR AND RULING FAMILY OF KING FAISAL'S
ASSASSINATION IS HIGHLIGHTING OF VULNERABILITY OF SHEIKHLY
RULE.

PAGANELLI

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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